

Horticultural Society of the American Institute.

The lecture of Tuesday evening, March 21, was by MASON C. WELD, on "Soils." He remarked that the plant is its birth place, cradle and grave; in part it is its food, and in part the trencher from which it feeds; it is its sole drinking cup, its anchorage; it is swayed to and fro in the gales. What is the soil, whence comes it, and will it always remain fertile? With our lenses we may examine the finest soils, and we will find them largely composed of bits of stone, the ground-down particles of this or yonder mountain chain—incorporated with sand is the decayed vegetation matter so necessary to fertility. The beginning of a soil is the fine dust and bits of wood with the particles of stones cracked by frost, and washed down into the cracks of rocks, and when blown or blown into the dry surface. This small beginning grows, and appears that all the parties concerned meet well, however much they may have erred in judgment.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are hereby expressed to the Committee of Ministers and laymen for the time and talents which they have devoted to the investigation of this subject.

Several speeches, pro and con, were made upon the subject, but the resolutions were finally carried.

The steward's report was then read.

The following is a copy:

From New-York, East District.....	\$1,177.21
From North Long Island District.....	1,360.40
From South Long Island District.....	1,262.64
From Bridgeport District.....	670.16
From New-Haven District.....	533.92
Total.....	5,708.58
Less expenses.....	500.00
Special collection at Mamaroneck, N.C.....	731.00
Donation from Rev. N. Ross.....	5.00
Total.....	5,739.58

 Less expenses.....

Paid Claimants on General Fund..... \$5,774.58

Paid Claimants on Centenary Fund..... 700.02

Paid necessaries cases from special collection..... 731.00

Paid Traveling Expenses..... 51.00

Redeemed counterfeited bill received last year..... 3.00

Total..... \$7,339.58

 Less expenses.....

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